

**Brazil's President Rousseff First Woman To Open UN General Assembly Session**  
**Bernama**  
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BRASILIA, Sept 19 (BERNAMA-NNN-MERCOPRESS) -- Brazil's president Dilma Rousseff becomes the first woman to open the round of speeches marking the upcoming United Nations General Assembly session beginning this week.

"On Wed Sept 21, the President becomes the first woman since the foundation of the UN to address the opening of the General Assembly session", the Brazilian Foreign Affairs ministry said.

President Rousseff's activities in New York begins later today at a special meeting on chronic diseases chaired by former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet who is currently head of the Women Office in the UN.

Tomorrow Rousseff is scheduled to meet with U.S president Barack Obama with both leaders making the official presentation of the Open Government Society, a UN promoted initiative, which this year is jointly chaired by the U.S and Brazil, said Rodrigo Baena, spokesperson for the Brazilian presidency.

Later in the day the Brazilian president will be meeting her Mexican counterpart, Felipe Calderon and at night will be awarded a prize for her dedication as a public servant, from the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars.

On Wed before opening the round of speeches of the 66th General Assembly, President Rousseff will have a private meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

"The president is drafting a wide ranging and incisive speech in which she will defend social inclusion and human rights guarantees", said the official news agency Brazil.

Likewise the Brazilian leader will address the effects of the global crisis, the need to reform the UN Security Council, supporting sustainable development and recalling that next June 2012 Rio do Janeiro will be hosting the world conference on climate change - Rio 20.

She is also scheduled to hold private meetings with British Prime Minister David Cameron and later French president Nicholas Sarkozy with whom she will address the world crisis among other issues.

On Thurs Sept 22, the agenda in New York is over but Rousseff will be participating in a UN nuclear security meeting and of a Security Council session on preventive diplomacy.

Over 120 world leaders are expected in New York for the upcoming UN General Assembly session where Palestine's bid for UN membership is likely to be the highlight. A lot of attention is also expected around the 'Arab Spring' situation and general unrest in the region, sources said.

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